CLAIMS

1   1. A method of providing a filter for a router, comprising the steps of:

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3   providing a set of pre-written router filters within one or more files;

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5   providing a router filter written specifically for the router;

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7   running a program on a computer to identify one of the pre-written filter files as a

8   substitute for said specifically written filter; and

9

10 loading said one of the pre-written filters onto the router.

1   2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the running step includes the step of

2   running the program on the computer to identify which one of the pre-written filters

3   most closely matches, according to a defined test, said specifically written filter.

1   3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein said test is a pre-defined test.

1   4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the running step includes the step of

2   running the program on the computer to identify which one of the pre-written filters

3   most closely matches the specifically written filter according to a predefined set of

4   criteria.

1   5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of running the program includes

2   the step of identifying defined features of the specifically written filter, and searching the

3   pre-written filters for the identified defined features.

1   6. A system for providing a filter for a router, comprising:

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3 computer readable medium including a set of pre-written router filters;

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5 computer readable medium including a router filter written specifically for the router;

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7 computer readable medium including a program for running on a computer to identify

8 one of the pre-written filters as a substitute for said specifically written filter; and

9

10 means for loading said one of the pre-written filters onto the router.

1 7. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the program includes means to identify

2 which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches, according to a defined test, a

3 filter in the said specifically written filter file.

1 8. A system according to Claim 7, wherein said test is a pre-defined test.

1 9. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the program includes means to identify

2 which one of the pre-written filter files most closely matches the specifically written

3 filter file according to a predefines set of criteria.

1 10. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the program includes means for identifying

2 defined features of the specifically written filters, and for searching the pre-written filters

3 for the identified defined features.

1 11. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of

2 instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for identifying a filter

3 for a router, said method steps comprising:

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5 reading a set of pre-written router filters within one or more filter files;

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7 reading a router filter file written specifically for the router; and

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9   identifying one of the pre-written filters within the pre-written filter files as a substitute

10   for said specifically written filter within the router specific filter file.

1   12. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step

2   includes the step of identifying which one of the pre-written filter files most closely

3   matches, according to a defined test, said specifically written filter file.

1   13. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein said method steps further

2   include the step of loading the identified filter file onto the router.

1   14. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step

2   includes the step of identifying which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches

3   the specifically written filter file according to a predefines set of criteria.

1   15. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step

2   includes the step of identifying defined features of the specifically written filter file, and

3   searching the pre-written filter files for the identified defined features.